

# When BBS Was King

*There was a time, a time before AOL, before Prodigy, before CompuServe, a time when computers were young and mankind was pure. BBS was king and printers were dot matrix. Wiki tells us:*

A bulletin board system or BBS is a [computer server](#) running [software](#) that allows users to connect to the system using a [terminal program](#). Once logged in, the user can perform functions such as [uploading](#) and [downloading](#) software and data, reading news and bulletins, and exchanging messages with other users through [email](#), public [message boards](#), and sometimes via direct [chatting](#). Many BBSes also offer [on-line games](#) in which users can compete with each other, and BBSes with multiple phone lines often provide [chat rooms](#), allowing users to interact with each other. Bulletin board systems were in many ways a precursor to the modern form of the [World Wide Web](#), [social networks](#), and other aspects of the [Internet](#). Low-cost, high-performance [modems](#) drove the use of [online services](#) and BBSes through the early 1990s. [Infoworld](#) estimated that there were 60,000 BBSes serving 17 million users in the United States alone in 1994, a collective market much larger than major online services such as [CompuServe](#).

The introduction of inexpensive [dial-up internet service](#) and the [Mosaic web browser](#) offered ease of use and global access that BBS and online systems did not provide, and led to a rapid crash in the market starting in 1994. Over the next year, many of the [leading BBS software providers](#) went [bankrupt](#) and tens of thousands of BBSes disappeared. Today, BBSing survives largely as a nostalgic hobby in most parts of the world, but it is still an extremely popular form of communication for Taiwanese youth and in China.

*Travel with us now back to those heady times of 1990, when a young Blackledge with handle **Sigman** had not yet reached his majority and had not yet met (on a BBS) the woman known as Starshine. BBS provided an interactive presence, an opportunity for students and hobbyists to exchange ideas that is captured here with only a modicum of editing (you will soon note that 1990 was well before spell check).*

f "Uhhhhh well "

By: THE LIZARD KING-HJ11

On: Sun Mar 18, 1990 6:50 AM Lr:

Wed Apr 11, 1990 8:19 PM - - 28

Responses Total -

00, Look out side, the sun's coming up and all sorts of miraculous shit like that. ... And what's this... no more bottles of beer on the wall...THUD!  
 Naw, not me I don't go in for that unruly sort of behavior ,tee hee So, uh, well look I'm posting something, isn't that special? Thank God (or some such benevolent being) I have know idea what sub board I'm on, but memories of contests, Eddy Murphy, and criticism pervade. In that order I lost, he's great, and I do. Any more questions? There's one thing I must note before signing off is it just me or does the term "per sey" make every one sick? A buddy of mine at NM State said "... well you know, its got its place conceptually speaking." Conceptually speakin?="". Is any body out ther hip to this particular sort of disease? The dude is bound to be a Philosophy major eh? Well, I guess I deserve some credits for all that huh?

Would any body out there like a job? Here's the descript: Once every other day or so, leave me a message, could be on any topic, ie animal rights, gun control, abortion, religion, Mother Goose, drugs, polotics, music etc. You pick a side and we argue it out to the death. Right now I'm especially hip to religion. I don't know why, but I've this over powering urge to corrupt all I once held dear. I know it sounds sorter sick, but I love to play Devil's advocate. The requirements are easy don't get mad, prove me wrong.  
 (what pomposity) Hey, I sure am glad yo're all out there and I'm not.

A True Believer  
 The Lizard King

R- Response # 1 -  
 { By: FLAMING ARROW-H37  
 On: Sun Mar 18, 1990 12:54 PM

Ok, so that all really made a hell of alot of sence... whatever. Ok, let's see, I am up for a debate, But not on religion, I don't believe in any of that shit. It can't be proven but If it could, I challenge you to prove it, and don't be coming up with any of this shit saying,"Well, how did you get onto this earth and all of the people before you?" that's a bullshit way to try to prove something to me, I wants some hard core evidence or something like that.... My beliefs are that I am the greater power and I feel that to you, you should feel like you are the greater power. that's simple enough, doncha think?

FA 0

R- Response # 2 -  
 { By: \*THE LIZARD KING-HJ11 On:  
 Mon Mar 19, 1990 7:31 AM

Ah, 'tis Flaming Arrw who is "up for debate",  
 First, is the handle some sort of statement?(ie creator of vast allconsuming flames,or a referenc to the futility of it a11 the lone arrow missng its target and smolderig away for naught)? Sorta intruiging in a trivil way.

Well no matter thanks for the reply though it was not the end of the argument I was after,I will certainly try to o a noble job of defening the omnipotent being. n all fairness we shoul first define the beastand move on from there, eh? Unlik you I will not refer o 'it' as "all that shi" No, instead I will attemptto defened the genrallyaccepedomnipotent,benevolent, omniscient, and omnipresent fellow. I'm ure there's no merit[109#1e5simple argument you war me against (... "well ow did you get on this erth...") since I've some limited understanding of howthe sexual act producedme, and after a time my ownkids. No, oh Flamming one, give me some inklingof credit.

On that note we may begin. As you know sex can often be the beginning of a new life, and that life must eventually end in death. Right? So, this in mind we may say...1. Every event has some cause. And this being true we may further surmise,

2. A series of cause/effects can not extend infinitely into the past. If the first two premisses hold true couldn't we take it to the next logical step and add 3. Nothing can be its own cause. What all of this inevitably leads up to is... 4. There must be a First cause. This simple argument allows the plausibility of the Big Bang Theory and Darwin's Theory of Evolution. The first cause is of course God. You may or may not accept it, but here's a damn good argument for the existence of God.

If you simply can not accept it, let's try a different angle. Consider all the text above this paragraph. Now, think of a monkey sitting in front of a keyboard, banging away on the keys. For the sake of argument, this particular monkey is immortal. Okay? Now, what are the odds of that monkey pounding out that text exactly as you see it now (almost grammatically correct)? Let's face it, the odds are sooooo minute, that we could justifiably say it's impossible. Simply impossible. Now then we have a mutual reference point. Consider the Earth. If the Earth were any closer or farther from the Sun, life could not exist.

If this isn't enough for you, what about chemicals? 2. Concentrations of gasses and chemicals on the Earth are perfect for producing/sustaining life. The odds of this sort of perfection make our friend the Monkey's plight seem easy. Please consider further 3. The interaction of just the right amount, of just the right chemicals to produce/maintain life. (ie NA) Now surely you must see the odds of these random occurrences are by no stretch of the imagination comparable. The Monkey's task is a virtual cake walk in comparison. Allow me to put forth the proposition that Only a God, Could set up conditions so perfectly, and precisely. Again Darwinian Theory 5% success rate. and is perhaps even necessary.

Now, don't get me wrong. I can dig your greater power belief. My own is quite a bit the same. But to write these arguments off, just because they don't comfort you or serve our purposes, is utterly moronic. Furthermore, before you tell me "...to you, you should be a greater believer..." you better think out "...all that shit..." a bit more fully. Again, I CAN'T STRESS ENOUGH that I AM NO HOLY ROLLER TYPE. I am thoroughly convinced that...

Friedrich Nietzsche as justified in his infamous line, "God is dead." Not simply because it is easy, nor comfortable; no, instead I subscribe to the notion because it is logical, and (in a way) self evident. Nietzsche doesn't mentally jerk us off with the question of God's existence. He simply states the obvious... it really doesn't matter if God does or ever did exist, because right now We (society) do not act as if he/she did. Consider Religious Wars, on the whole they are in blatant contradiction with that which they espouse.

On a smaller scale think of the Moral Majority; probably the most immoral pack of dogs around. and that of "The Rumble Alley, also in direct contradiction with the supposed 'word of God". The bottom line is PLAY IT LIKE YOU FEEL IT!! Sorry this is sooooo long, but YOU didn't want a simple argument.

The Desktop Philosopher  
The Lizard King

R- Response # 3 -

By: FLAMING ARROW-HJ7

On: Mon Mar 19, 1990 4:27 PM

Well to start things off, IT REALLY looks like a monkey pounded that into the keyboard..... I really feel that there is \*\*NO\*\*

arguments against \*\*MY\*\* beliefs... MINE ARE MINE, and YOURS ARE YOURS... Simply enough if that is how you want it, Simply put.... anyways I didn't want to take the time to read all of that shit... too damn long and I didn't want to run out of time. hehe.... but I did scan it rather thoroughly and to put it as plain and simple as I can and being there are no hard feelings YOU ARE SOOOOOO DAMNED FULL OF SHIT! how is that for plain and simple....Not trying to war or anything, but your logic sucks. by the sounds of it you are comparing mankind to a MONKEY ON A DAMN KEYBOARD.... That's not really that bright actually.... MY opinions in life are still as sturdy if not sturdier than they were before your words of, whatever you want to call it, I really don't want to use the those words along with wisdom in the same sentence. OK, here it is, this is as plain as I can get it.

I WANT ACTUAL PROOF OF A GOD OR A LESSER GOD BEFORE I CHANGE SHIT., all I have so far is that you seem to be a satanic dude or something, what the hell does sex have to do with it? I know that sex leads you to the opening of a new life, but that has nothing to do with religion, UNLESS YOU ARE PAYING FOR IT! ha! ok, that's all of the babbling I have for now, now give me a fax, no more bullshit.

Oh and the thing with my handle! HA! HA! HA! try one who has the power to tear you a new asshole and sear it that way!  
Flaming arrow 0

R- Response # 4  
f By SIGMAN-H39  
On: Mon Mar 19, 1990 6:20 PM

Ok... now maybe I'm just strange but, I believe that there must be some sort of final, universal combination of religion and science...Did you ever think about the possibility that God (or whatever CAUSED the big bang... or whatever created the universe? I mean evolution makes COMPLETE sense to ME but there are several things it can't explain... such as some of the WIERD adaptations of some of Her/His creations. Especially we HUMANS!! How could something as complex as us have just EVOLVED when all of the other creatures are "lesser" than us? And why do we still have so many weaknesses? Plus there are obviously creatures that have WAY to strange of adaptations for it just to have been survival of the fittest. Like those birds that use a stick to get worms out of trees... WHY don't they just use the regular method? It would be much simpler., but not as INTERESTING!!! Understand? Not to mention the whole world of instincts... I mean it couldn't have just been a FEW creatures that had these instincts for survival and then they were the only ones that could survive! There HAD to be some "Divine" intervention!

By the way., why can't ALL religions just exist without bothering each other... HMM? I mean, personally I think that Religion is simply one of "man's" basic needs... otherwise we'd all go crazy because we couldn't understand how we got here!

I guess that's PLENTY long enough so...  
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R-  
Response # 5

f By: \*THE LIZARD KING-HJ11  
On: Mon Mar 19, 1990 10:08 PM

C'mon fellas you're missing the point....

Whad'a ya mean religion keeps us sain'??!!!

Man, Mormons at my door, 'krishnas at the airport they all drive me crazy! Different beasts are bound to adapt to their environments differently... because they have different needs, they fill different

niches in the scheme (not to be confused with the religious sort of scheme, just the whole [picture. ie](#) nature).

As I already stated... The existence of God is irrelevant, simply because virtually No One acts as if he/it did. That's all Nietzsche meant by "God Is Dead" .

I don't have to prove nothing to no one....

look out your fucking door, if all those mindless masses really believe in God, then they're walking down the road to ruin; by their own design.

I worship at no throne, and the only idol I perch in front of, glows green, and that's only because I couldn't afford the

color model. Poor simple Flaming Arrow, so utterly confused and lost in a world of possibilities. Be of good cheer oh, simple minded one there will be those, 'lessor' topics that even you fathom.

The Desk Top Philosopher  
The Lizard King

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R- Response # 6 -

f By: FLAMING ARROW-HJ7  
On: Tue Mar 20, 1990 7:27 PM

Ok, Sigman spoke of a thing that I do believe in and I know is really, cuz it shows all around you... >> SCIENCE << Yes, now science is a fact, who in the hell actually knows what god is? and EVOLUTION is not an act of god, it's an Adaptation or whatever you wanna call it. Oh well, Lizard Kind, You don't know who is confused here, cuz I know taht it sure as hell isn't me... I know what I believe in.... Don't make judgements on the other guy until you fill his/her shoes! In fact I couldn't know more than what I have been trying to say... I think taht if we put it together we have close to the same beliefs, At least that is what is sounds like to me.. Hmmmmmm... Oh well, I guess thins needs stated only once more..

MY BELIEFS: There is no god, there is no devil.... THERE IS SCIENCE!

Now, close the book, you are at an end!

Flaming Arrow 0

R- Response # 7 -

f By: THE LIZARD KING-HJ11  
On: Tue Mar 20, 1990 10:34 PM

Well, I guess I can accept that. I had no intention of changing any one's mind.., only wanted to stir up some interaction. Our beliefs are far more mutual than I would care to admit, but for obviously different reasons. Hey, lets all go to "The Dinner Table" and textate on something really important... like the ins and outs of puppy training.

I guess we buried that one, eh?  
The Desk Top Philosopher  
The Lizard King

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R- Response # 8 -  
f By: WOMBO THE SANE-HJ17  
On: Thu Mar 22, 1990 8:02 PM

Buried? Just when it was gettig FUN? Geez, and I don't even have a chance to throw in my views... But here goes anyway!

Well, unfortunately I lack the good sense to know how to pause the bulletins at 1200 baud, so I only got a jist of whatever you good folk are trying to say. So....

Evolution and God and other funsey shit like that is all good and well, but it seems that nobody has the good sense to try to put them together! 8Except the Christian Scientists and we all know whose side they're on!) I mean, God, for all we know, could have just

blipped up the planet, dropped a few microbes around, then left, letting them evolve into sapient creatures just to screw up the scientists vs. religious fanatics he knew would spring up and a few million years! I'm no christian (or scientist... I'm Pagan, thank you), and I just don't see what all the hubbub is about Darwin.

Hmm... I'm losing track.. let's try somewhere else...

I agree and disagree with the views above about religion keeping up sane. We, as humans, need something to keep us motivated, and in Ye Olde days of yore, the almighty buck just didn't quite cut it. A good solution: Let's say we're here to fulfill a purpose and get the hell on with it. Sounds good. Another good root of religion was from back in the REALLY Ye Olde Days of Yore when man (or what passed for it) looked up into the sky at night and said (and I quote. I was there), "Oooh, twinkly things. Me no make twinkly things. You no make twinkly things. Somebody make twinkly things. Must have been BIG somebody to put them way up there. Me thinkit would be good idea to stay of big Somebody's good side. Me worship him, me no get stepped on" type of thing.

Well, my brain is sufficiently drained of bio-electric power. I'll check in later to read about how dumb I am for doing this. C yal

Wombo

R- Response # 9  
f By: FLAMING ARROW-HJ7  
On: Fri Mar 23, 1990 6:16 PM

Well, I am not here to tell you how dumb you were or anything, but I would like to put in another view.... OK, IT COMEST TO

>>>>>> M O T I V A T I O N <<<<<<<

Yeah, that word kinda stuck in my mind... Ok, I see why people would want to look at something as a way of motivation or have a reason for carrying through with their lives or whatnot, but that is total Bullshit.... Hell, Give me a girl and exchange

her for a new one every now and then and I will be motivated plenty! Look, it comes down to this.. I mean what I am trying to say here, Why not believe in something that you are sure is totally real.. No possibilities that it could be a fraud.. Get real, why waste your time on something that is or has the closest possibility to be fake...

And Lizzy king, I am rather enjoying this convo and where it seems to be going, stay tuned Dude!

FA

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R- Response # 10

{ By: RUNNER-HJ27

On: Sat Mar 24, 1990 1:04 PM

Evolution:

It could be that as the original life forms evolved, new ones were created at the same level as the first and thus the different stages of evolution were formed. For example: by the time we evolve to Homo Superior the monkeys will be at Homo Sapien and the dogs will be at monkey and the rats will be at dog and the worms will be rats and the microbes will be worms and there will be a new set of microbes!

Religion:

It has always been my belief that a God of any religion is only as powerful as the number of people worshiping him. If this holds true then it really doesn't matter if the God exist or not for people will fight wars in his name. When the people turn to science and shy away from the Gods, they loose power. Look at the Romans! They worshiped Jupiter. They were also the leading mathematicians. As their knowledge grew the religious beliefs died and so did the God and eventually the Empire itself!

Pause:

To pause the screen you can either hit the clear-home key OR hold control and hit "S". To continue again hit any key.

R- Response # 11 -

{ By: KITTY-HJ15

On: Sun Mar 25, 1990 12:18 PM

Wombo: Try the controls for pause, i think.

Kitty 0

R- Response # 12 -

f By: FLAMING ARROW-HJ7

On: Sun Mar 25, 1990 12:29 PM

Ok, I think that you did a real good job on you little thing with the religion and the evolution thing was just as everyone would probly have figured it... But With th religion or "GOD" only being as strong as the number of people that believe in it, Well, that I think is not true... I think that if you go out every sunday and what wednesday or even 7 days a week to worship your beliefs, then I really do think that you or whoever really leads a boring life, I mean if that is your only "PURPOSE OF LIFE"... oh well, I think that I may be going off into the deep end now and I may be a little if not a lot confusing to people at this point so I w11 write about it later when I have a clear mind, Ahg!

Flaming Arrow 0

R- Response # 13 -

f By: THE LIZARD KING-HJ11

On: Mon Mar 26, 1990 11:38 PM

Man! A guy takes off some time to go fishing, and everybody finally gets interested. First of all, I read some stuff back there that was really in tune. mind you, not all... but some. I'm glad we're asking, but dismayed that we're answering. Uhm, I can't remember all the specifics but that's not the point.. I can see many perspectives, and wouldn't care to change a one. but I would like to pound it all... And what if, on the seventh day, Man created God in His own image, and God being a benevolent sort accepted the role he was given?

And what if further, this God of ours was not the altruistic sort we prey that he may be. Further still, evolution has been deft with, be it by almighty design or other wise, it's a basic fact of life, if you can't take a shit.. get off the pot. Hey, I'm not giving the credit thats due to the two really outstanding posts back there but we know who you are. Thanks for the new angle on an ancient muse!!!

The (Now) Gratified  
Lizard King

R- Response # 14 -

f By: \*SIGMAN-HJ9

On: Wed Mar 28, 1990 6:11 PM

Just some more possibilities (you DO realize that there are an INFINITE number of them don't you?) OK...



First... It could be "GOD" was just like a stupid little kid (although VERY powerful by our standards) that was messingg around and purposely or accidentally created our Universe. We

could even be like a pet project of his and be stored in his/her toybox for him/her to just take Out and play with every once in a while (maybe create a few new galaxies/beings or maybe a supernova for our astronomers enjoyment.

God/Budha/Zues/Alla/etc. knows!

Also...It could be that the Bible and the likes were just partial accounts of this Divine stuff and the people who wrote them just made up some more stuff to make it more interesting so more people would believe in their religion! I mean if these people never actually SAW this supreme being but saw it at work then they could just make it in WHATEVER image they wanted! I mean what about blacks and women etc.? Why isn't "God" a Hispanic/Homosexual/Black woman with real bad ACNE?HUH?(I know this isa "little" strange for most of you... but it is just possibilities as I said)

There is NO proof for ANYTHING in the area of religious and scientific explanations for the universe and Humans when you think abbout it! But as I said before... We can't just accept, emotionally/mentally, that we DON'T know how it all happened, and since Science was so limited in the begining we had to just (possibly) INVENT some explanation! Understand? Hello?

\*WAKE UP!!!\*

That's better. OK... I get the message. I know when I'm to sttrange for you types.... So... live long and PERSPIRE

!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Sigman

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R- Response # 15 -

f By: WOMBO THE SANE-HJ17

On Wed Mar 28, 1990 630 PM

Strange? Hey, I know EXACTLY where your coming from!

You raised some intersting point, Sigman! I mean, if God created us in his own image, does that mean he's a retarded genuis with a variable IQ who also happens to be homesexual, monosexual, black, white, caucasian, hispanic and every other type of person there is all at once?

I'm kinda wondering about all this "God's Will" type stuff. It seems to me that religeos truth is widely open to interpretation, even within it's own ranks. How are we supposed to know what God's Will is? I mean, if it comes in a vision, then God's Will would be to Professionally Wrestle midgets to the ground at my school stage (a strange dream that I couldn't explain if I told you!) If your on acid is God's Will to stomp aii those purple hairy smurfs crawling through the wall? If you are a white preiest in South Africa, is God's Will to stomp all those blacks into powder (while God's will on the other side would probably be revolution)? Maybe it's all a great big ant-farm type thing to keep God busy over the celestial summer.

Wombo

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Clean Up ...Starts HERE

R- Response # 16 -

f By: THE LIZARD KING-HJ11  
On: Thu Mar 29, 1990 12:05 AM

FUCKING AAAAYYYY,

You guys are great! First let me throw another 'cog' in the machine... What if 'God' were a school aged kid and he entered a project in the school science fair. Well, perhaps the poor kid didn't do to well so he chunked the project out into the garage where it continued to grow/change/develop/whatever... So anyhow we're (our universe) is only so much rubble in this (seemingly) giant garage? Could our whole universe cease to exist just 'cause someone has to clean the fucking garage?? I also dig the interpretation angle... but isn't that the primary difference in all the religions? Isn't that what people keep dying for? You all might not enjoy reading, or maybe you do; but allow me to recommend a truly interesting/refreshing book, it's called "Behold, The Man" by Michael Moorcock, The dude is a fucking genius he'll really mess up your comfortable little reality. There's also another outstanding book called "Black Easter" by James Blish if you're into pondering the Big question, he'll give you yet another interesting approach. I'm sure not many of you will want to put all that effort into it, but if you like to read... check 'em out

God is on the road

along with Mr. Toad,

They're looking for another planet.

Christ is on the cross

he suffered heavy loss

and we're worshipping a piece of granite.

Buddha's sitting still

high upon the hill

He couldn't care one way or the other

And Allah's in the bath

trying not to laugh

'cause he's sick of telling us we're brothers (Shawn Phillips)

The Mentally Orgasmic

Lizard King

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R- Response # 17 -

f By: TRAVIS-HJO

On: Thu Mar 29, 1990 10:22 AM

WOW DO ANY OF YA'LL EVER GET TIRED FINGERS?

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R- Response # 18 -

f By: THE LIZARD KING-HJ11

On: Thu Mar 29, 1990 9:49 PM

Nope! ... not me, I type with my tongue. (good exercise).

I keep seeing the word "Science" back there. Correct me if I'm wrong, but I thought science was merely a tool by which we interpret and predict events. (or at least happenings that effect one or more of our [very

limited] senses.) Some of you folks seem to have turned the rather basic concept into an equally (if not more) fanatic religion. What about matter, and the speed of light? Hasn't quantum mechanics fucked it all up? [previous notions, that is]. Science is only a sign post, it is not the ultimate truth. More like a way to get there.

The Over the Edge  
Lizard King

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R- Response # 19

f By: WOMBO THE SANE-HJ17

On: Sat Mar 31, 1990 3:37 AM

(Well I type with my appendix!)

Science is almost a religion unto itself. To most religions, the world goes 'round cuz that's what God says and there's nothing you can do about it. (Not ALL religions ignore science so blatantly, but the Bible sure seems to do a good job.)

To science, the world goes 'round 'cuz of the sun's gravity, and inertia, and because we all don't get to one side and jump simultaneously enough times to slow it down. Science is science's own god, almost.

Yeah, QM has done a LOT screw up all our previous notions of the universe. But even as science is a tool, haven't tools evolved over the years? Cavemen used large rocks to pound things until we figured out how to do it a better more efficient way. Electricity, although still largely produced by burning fuels, is now being replaced by hydraulic, geothermal, and nuclear power plants. We have nail guns and other stuff. The evolution of viewpoints is what seems to set science apart from religion. Science must strive forward, seeking answers to unsolved questions. Religion is content to say "it's God's way" and go on with their lives. I prefer a mixture of both, myself.

Wombo

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R- Response # 20 -

f By: \*SIGMAN-HJ9

On: Sat Mar 31, 1990 11:04 PM

(Just some more crap to add on)

First of all, Science IS a religion (if You agree that "religion" is one of man's basic needs) .., it is the religion of ATHEISTS!! (I, personally, consider myself an Agnostic [look it up]). Do any of you have any gripes about the adding of "God" into our Pledge of Al. and onto our monetary units (money for you illiterates). The mention of this SPECIFIC Religious figure was only added onto these items in the 50's!!! It REALLY bugs...

Whenever I say the Pledge I boycott saying under God anymore. This just undermines the WHOLE idea of freedom of religion... it promotes certain religions! AaUUGGHH!!

More later.... (if you can take it)

Sigman  
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R--- Response # 21  
f By: \*SIGMAN-HJ9  
On: Sun Apr 1, 1990 8:22 PM

(When my fingers get tired I just chop them off and type with the stumps)  
Sigman  
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R- Response # 22 -  
f By: WOMBO THE SANE-HJ17  
On: Mon Apr 2, 1990 3:10 PM

(When my appendix gets tired I smash the keyboard with my head to the beat of old Irish Drinking Songs!)

Actually, I DO have a gripe with the Pledge (and not just because of the addition of "god" into it, but that's another post)! I don't even stand up or anything... It seems to me that if I, as a young lad who is not yet allowed to vote, have no say in loitics and the goings-on in our nation, I really don't see why I should pledge myself to it! I mean, that's like a "blind-faith" kind of fanatacism!

Even our "glorious" constitution (which many congressmen find such inventive ways of working around) gives mention to God naught bu a few lines bef or the "freedom of religion"-type thing.

Agnostic? I'm afraid I' not too familiar with that one. I've changed (evolved) viewpoints on religion many times in the past few years. Right now I'm Dianic (A derivation, although some say root, of Wicca, called Witchcraft by those who don't know a better. Fine by me), and it suits me well. Any other Wiccans or otherwise-occult-related type peoples?

Wombo

R- Response # 23 -  
f By: \*THERESA-HJ18  
On: Mon Apr 2, 1990 11:37 PM

Speaking from experience, please don't get the lizard king going on politics. It's just too much for anyone to bear. As for this god stuff, if there was a god he/she/it wouldn't have included him (lizard) in my family. That makes little or no sense. LK does have some interesting arguments for and against of god but unfortunately I've listened to them for the last six or seven months I'd say, so they are getting a little boring. If you want to get interesting,

to get interesting, speak with LK about existance in general. I believe that is one of his more entertaining ideas. Don't ask him about abortion or adoption though, his answers are too cut and dried. LK has a very sharp mind and is

very interesting to talk to, but I haven't figured out exactly where his type of mentality fits in to every day life. I mean, what exactly can you do with all these incredible arguments about god besides aggravate a priest? If you can think of any career opportunities for someone with this type of intellect please respond. Actually, he's doing better than I am because I'm currently unemployed, but I felt it was my duty as sibling to harass him a little lest he wind up with an ego like his philosophy buddy.

shalyn  
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R- Response # 24 -  
f By: GLITCH-HJ10  
On: Thu Apr 5, 1990 12:42 AM

LK could become a Jehovah's Witness. They seem to do a marvelous job of arguing when it comes to God. Actually, they are the stereotypical door to door religion toters. If he likes airplanes, he could have his head and become a Hari Krishna passing out leaflets at the airport.

Glitch  
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R- Response # 25 -  
f By: THE LIZARD KING-HJ11  
On: Thu Apr 5, 1990 10:52 PM

Well to the last two I must only reply... There But For The Grace Of God Go I... In reference to an earlier, an Agnostic is simply stuck (by choice) in the middle. They are unable to commit to a notion so dependant upon Dogma, and the inexplicable, yet they believe that something (call it an IT) is out there. Else they believe we simply don't know enough yet to make a final and all encompassing decision. They are the vast majority of the populous, and probably rightly so. It is to the Agnostic that conversations such as the one we are embroiled in hold the most value, because seemingly the desire the most to clear up the argument and move onward with the rest of their existence. I also consider myself an Agnostic (to some degree) 'lest I'd never have brought the whole thing up. The input of the masses has served us well, valid points have surfaced, yet we are no closer/ or further to ultimate truth. I believe more stringent and honest discussion is called for. For in the babblings of we mere fools lies the greatest of truths, that of interaction and appreciation of the other multifaceted beings who surround us. Thanks for the ride people, I'm beginning to understand!!!

Hopelessly Human  
The Lizard King

a

R- Response # 26  
f By: \*SIGMAN-HJ9  
On: Sat Apr 7, 1990 2:39 AM

Congratulations, LK1 At least there is SOMEONE here with a few nerve cells left in their skulls after sitting and watching their monitor for so long.

(In case any of you were curious... I'm making a hard copy of this copy. It's the most interesting [to me] one I've ever seen. I'm just glad no "super-christian's" have gotten into the convo. They can start to bug with their narrow minds. EVERYBODY, watch out for them! They look and act JUST like normal people until you get them into a convo. about God and Religion! Then they can be considered ARMED & DANGEROUS!!!

The socially safety conscious

Sigman

(hey! I like that!)

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R- Response # 27 -

f By: THE LIZARD KING-HJII

On: Sun Apr 8, 1990 2:47 AM

Mr\_ Freud... or the name sake there of . . .

When this one's done maybe the topic of psycho sexual developement will come up. That might be most entertaining! Meanwhile I appreciate your positive perspective, though I've burned and drowned some brain cells in my past. What you (already) have to/seem to understand is... this is merely a forum devised to disguss and interprett th wonder of it all. It is the truly introspective posts (such as your own) that make it all worth while! It is my belief that FANATICISM of any sort, is dangerous and altogether unproductive to the whole... just ask the followers of Jim Jones!!! Dig the mode and catch the "disease" we are all haplessly human and in some sort of need. Ah, The Green One has digressed to speaking in rhyme. Write Lightly fellow wounderers; for 'tis we who hold the key!@!!

The Optimistic  
Lizard King

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R- Response # 28 -

f By: FLAMING ARROW-HJ7

On: Wed Apr 11, 1990 8:19 PM

Fuck it all. That's the mo simple way to deal with it

LK: This time \*\*\*DON'T FUCK WITH ME\*\*\* It is simple.... FLAMING ARROW or FA  
NOT.... \*\*\*\*\* NOT \*\*\*\*\* Burning

stick or any of that shit, Can you deal with it or influence needed?

FA

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End Of Bulletin. Command?:N

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## A Bit on BBSes

As described elsewhere, my formal academic training in the 60s was in mathematics, and when I arrived at my first 'real' Air Force job, I was handed a 3" x 5" by 1/2" booklet entitled "How to Program in FORTRAN". By Life was changed

forever. Computers were big, both in metaphysical terms and in physical terms, and “personal” was not part of the lexicon.

So when son David got into the BBS world in 1990, I did not understand this concept. I was even a bit concerned. “Who owns the computer you are dialing into? Why would someone do this?” Well, David explained, some SysOps (each administrator for his or her BBS) would request users to send in a few dollars every month; and some subset of users perhaps did. But it was really a hobby, done for the love of the technology. Since it's just phone lines, and usually only a single line, users like David might spend 30 minutes to an hour redialing a busy number to connect as soon as the previous user disconnected.

As Benj Edwards, a former sysop, explains in his **The Atlantic.com** piece [2016-11-04T10:27:00-04:00] ***The Lost Civilization of Dial-Up Bulletin Board Systems:***

BBSes once numbered in the tens of thousands in North America. These mostly text-based, hobbyist-run services played a huge part in the online landscape of the 1980s and '90s. Anyone with a modem and a home computer could dial-in, often for free, and interact with other callers in their area code.

Then the internet came along in the mid-1990s. Like a comet to the dinosaurs, it upended the natural order of things and wiped BBSes out. My system was one of the casualties, a victim of the desire to devote all my online time to the internet. The same scenario repeated itself on thousands of computers across the country until, one by one, the brightest lights of the BBS world blinked out of existence.

And what did David see on his Commodore 64 screen in March of 1990? “My reality was a 40-character wide screen with an additional 5-10 characters worth of margin on either side of the screen to account for overscan on different TV models. The C=64 didn't use all the available TV space except by assigning a “border color” to the space. Later on I used a technology-stretching bit of software to get me the same 80 character width of others, but it was really hard to read on the C=64. As for the 40 character limit on the C=64, when I read the posts, they all wrapped to 40 characters on my screen since that was my visible limit. I likely didn't notice any difference until I printed it out.”

It was a different world. Benj Edwards includes some screen shots of BBSes (which look somewhat like early MindCraft screens with their boxy pixel representations), but for the full flavor, you might consider some of the YouTube videos of a Commodore 64 modem handshaking at 1200 baud or a 300 Baud connect to a dial up bbs using a Commodore 64 to provide a sense of the audio and visual world of 1990s BBS. Benj Edwards:

The first BBS came to life in 1978 during a particularly bad Chicago blizzard. Its inventors, Ward Christensen and Randy Suess, wanted a way to keep up with their computer club without having to gather together in person. So they figured out a way to do it *with* computers.

The resulting software, called CBBS, allowed personal-computer owners with modems to dial-in to a dedicated system and leave messages that others would see later, when they, in turn, dialed up the BBS. People could, in theory, call BBSes anywhere, but since they'd have to pay for long-distance, they tended to stay local.

The BBS concept was a digital version of a push-pin bulletin board that might flank a grocery store entrance or a college student union hallway.

As David says, "Anyone willing to pay for the phone connection to that person's house could connect to the board (long distance was possible, and a complaint I'd heard of from people who live e.g. in Rio Ranch and trying to call a Edgewood BBS. The younger friend who ran a C=64 BBS and started getting into questionable activities had his questionable friends set him up with a 1-800 number for them to call his board from around the country or world)."

The BBS world continued to evolve, and dragged its happy users with it: "1200 baud is the speed of the modem connection, roughly 120 characters per second (3 lines of text on the C=64). I started out with 150-300 baud which a good touch typist could beat, later got to 1200, 2400, 9600, and eventually got to the 56k baud modems (which in reality were about 28k baud over most phone lines)..

David tells us for these transcriptions: "Lr:" appears to be the "last reply" date. (as a UI [User Interface] designer it's interesting to note the 2-character labels they used for everything including "On" for "date" and "By" for "author"). Any of the fancy symbols are likely color changes... so "By" is in one color (the f-like symbol), the "R" before the reply number is another color change... and the "O-like" symbol at the end of them is another color change from the body to the next message. ... and the "Uhhh welllll" thing before the first message is the thread's subject.

In the printout, note that each user is listed first in the transmission: By: THE LIZARD KING-HJ11

Most likely the code [HJ11] after the name [THE LIZARD KING] is the system ID for that handle.